

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 PPT-01 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10

VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 L-02 PA-01

PRS-01 SSO-00 USIE-00 /036 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

SECDEF/PA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CLARK AFB IMMEDIATE

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CINCPAC FOR PAO, CLARK AFB FOR PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMG, SREF

SUBJECT: EMBASSY PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE TO CLARK EVAC
CENTER

REF: MANILA 4979

FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE TO BE USED IN ANSWERING PROBABLE
MEDIA INQUIRIES AT CLARK,AFB TO BE USED ONLY IF ASKED:

1. QUESTION: ARE THERE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT CLARK AFB
AND IF SO, WHO ARE THEY AND HOW DID THEY GET HERE?

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ANSWER: YES, THERE IS A SMALL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE BEEN ARRIVING IN THE PAST WEEK OR SO. THEY CAME FROM SAIGON VIA U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND WILL LEAVE AS SOON AS THEY CAN BE PROCESSED. MOST OF THEM ARE RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. SOME HAVE ARRIVED AS ESCORTS ON THE ORPHAN FLIGHTS. (NO OBJECTION TO PROVIDING APPROXIMATE NUMBER BUT AVOID A DAILY UPDATING. KEEP FIGURES APPROXIMATE.)

2. QUESTION: WILL THEY BE GOING TO THE U.S.?

ANSWER: THAT DEPENDS UPON THE INDIVIDUAL DESIRES OF EACH PERSON AND UPON THEIR STATUS. THERE IS, AT PRESENT, AN EXTREMELY LIMITED EASING OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUING VISAS ON BEHALF OF CLOSE RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND ON BEHALF OF SOME PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS IN THE U.S. FOR WHOM PETITIONS ARE ON FILE.

3. QUESTION: HOW LONG WILL THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO STAY AT CLARK?

ANSWER: THEY WILL LEAVE AS QUICKLY AS THEIR INDIVIDUAL CASES CAN BE PROCESSED.

4. QUESTION: DO YOU EXPECT ADDITIONAL VN REFUGEES TO BE ARRIVING?

ANSWER: YES, ALTHOUGH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW JUST WHEN THEY WILL ARRIVE AND IN WHAT NUMBERS.

5. QUESTION: WHO IS PAYING FOR THEIR TRANSPORTATION?

ANSWER: IN MOST CASES, THESE PEOPLE HAVE SPONSORS WHO HAVE PAID TRAVEL COSTS ALREADY OR WHO HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO REIMBURSE US FOR THE COST OF THEIR TRANSPORTATION.

6. QUESTION: ARE THESE PEOPLE PART OF A EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALS?

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ANSWER: NO, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST THOSE VIETNAMESE WHOSE STATUS PERMITS THEM TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ENTRY INTO THE U.S.

7. QUESTION: WHO DECIDES ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THE U.S.?

ANSWER: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE ON THIS.

8. QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY CASES OF VIETNAMESE ARRIVING WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION AND IF SO WHAT WILL BE DONE ABOUT THEM?

ANSWER: YES, THERE ARE A FEW IN THIS CATEGORY. EACH CASE IS BEING STUDIED CAREFULLY.

9. QUESTION: WILL THEY ALSO BE ABLE TO ENTER THE U.S.?

ANSWER: EACH CASE IS DIFFERENT, BUT IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS FOUND ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. HIS CASE WILL BE GIVEN SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

10. ALL DECISIONS ON FILMING AND INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE CLEARED BY CHIEF PAO. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF THE TRAVELLERS. THEY WILL BE TIRED AND EXCITED. PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING REST AND TO SPEEDING THEIR ONWARD FLIGHTS.

11. ALL TRAVELLERS SHOULD BE TOLD EN ROUTE THAT MEDIA WILL BE ON HAND AT CLARK BUT THAT OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE REST, PRIVACY AND TIME FOR PROCESSING.

12. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MEDIA WILL BE PERSISTENT, AND WE SHOULD BE HELPFUL WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS RAISED ABOVE. THE VIETNAMESE TRAVELLERS, IN PARTICULAR, SHOULD NOT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO TALK WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, IF THEY CHOOSE NOT TO.

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13. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KEEP US INFORMED OF REACTIONS TO THE ABOVE GUIDANCE AFTER IT HAS BEEN USED SO THAT APPROPRIATE CHANGES CAN BE MADE IF NEEDED. KISSINGER

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